

## BOOK REVIEWS

**BLOOD DERIVATIVES AND SUBSTITUTES.** By Charles Stanley White, M.D., Sc.D. Former professor of surgery, George Washington University School of Medicine and Jacob Joseph Weinstein, B.S., M.D. Associate in Surgery, School of Medicine, George Washington University. The Williams and Wilkins Co. Price \$7.50.

The authors have written an encyclopedic volume in which they review the recent contributions to the subject of transfusions of blood derivatives and substitutes, the techniques of handling blood, and the organization of blood repositories. The volume is packed with useful information of value to technicians, corpsmen, medical students, directors of blood banks, and medical house officers. It is of less value to the general practitioner because the authors have not summarized the important practical considerations of each section in an adequate manner. This they might have done without impairing their scholarly contribution; also they could have crystallized their opinions on the basis of their broad experiences. The chapters dealing with the three major blood proteins and the procurement, preparations, and storage of plasma are very good, as is also the chapter on plasma fractions, and the chemical, physical, physiological, and immunological principles and their therapeutic indications.

It is clear from the discussion offered in Chapter IX that there are no substitutes short of plasma itself which can be called "plasma substitutes." The authors list a group of "emergency substances," but most of them violate the principles that "plasma substitutes" must not be antigenic and that they must be entirely innocuous. The authors are ardent advocates of the universal type O donor, and the thesis of type specificity of human blood plasma and serum for transfusions (in the opinion of the reviewer) is not advanced with enough force. The data they present in favor of universal type O blood are quoted from Army and Navy statistics, which deal with a young, vigorous and healthy population, and obviously cannot be compared with the often devitalized civilian population with which the average physician has to deal.

The authors wind up the academic discussion of their book with an exhaustive, yet terse and much condensed chapter on shock, in which they outline the major theoretical considerations in the treatment of this syndrome. For the first time all the important information having to deal with the subject of blood derivatives and plasma is collected in one volume. It should prove a source of stimulation for new departures in this field.

**PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND EDUCATION OF THE BRAIN-INJURED CHILD.** By Alfred A. Strauss, Psycho-Educational Consultant, Evanston, Illinois, President, Cove Schools for Brain-Injured Children, Racine, Wisconsin; and Laura E. Lehtinen, Psycho-Educational Consultant, Evanston, Illinois; Educational Consultant, Evanston, Illinois; Education Director, Cove Schools for Brain-Injured Children, Racine, Wisconsin. Grune & Stratton, New York. 1947.

This book deals particularly with that child whose brain potentially or originally was normal and then suffered injury prenatally, at birth or in the early postnatal period. It clarifies the picture for those of us who, working with children, find it difficult to explain or differentiate pathologies in the psychosomatic field, the overlapping symptoms found in subnormal children, psychopathies of childhood, physically handicapped children with emotional disturbances, etc.

The book is divided into Part I dealing with psychopathology and Part II with education. In the first division

are sections on anatomy, perceptual disturbances, thinking disorders, testing and diagnosing. The second division is devoted to techniques of educating the brain-injured child in reading, arithmetic and writing. A final chapter is devoted to the brain-injured deaf child.

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**EAR, NOSE AND THROAT. Symptoms—Diagnosis—Treatment.** By George D. Wolf, M.D. Assistant Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology, New York Medical College, New York. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. October, 1947. Price, \$10.00.

Diagnostic and therapeutic concepts in the specialty of otorhinolaryngology have undergone a remarkable about-face in the past 15 years. New editions of the older texts have made attempts to keep abreast of the newer knowledge, but these efforts have too frequently proven inadequate because the authors (or editors) have been too reluctant to delete those portions containing antiquated or even discredited ideas.

In creating a new text, the author has made a creditable attempt to present the subject in a manner which appeals to the analytic and reasoning faculties of the student rather than one which relies on mere memorization of rules. The text can be recommended for use by the student or general practitioner inasmuch as it provides a maximum of information with a minimum of misinformation.

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**PHARMACOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS.** By Hamilton H. Anderson, Fumiko Murayama and Benedict E. Abreu. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles. Price, \$6.50.

This is not a textbook, but rather a collection of brief abstracts of articles in the field of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics, including toxicology, published during the years 1941 to 1946. The book is designed to help bring the reader up to date on work done during the war, when periodical literature was frequently not available to military personnel, or when absorption in war research prevented keeping up on general developments. The book accomplishes its purpose to the extent of orienting the reader. Many important contributions are overlooked however. For example, no mention is made of the use of para-aminobenzoate in the treatment of typhus and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, the information on the new sulfonamides is grossly incomplete, there is a good discussion of thiouracil but propyl thiouracil is not mentioned, benadryl but not pyribenzamine is reviewed, and only an insignificant clinical paper on vitamin P is mentioned whereas many careful experimental papers on vitamin P, and especially on rutin, have appeared in English language periodicals. On the other hand much work on new drugs and poisons is well covered—for example, alloxan, cellulose acetate phthalate (for enteric coating), new anti-malarials, curare, DDT and folic acid. Much new work on alcohol, aliphatic amines, amphetamine, digitalis and its glycosides, heparin, and methyl bromide, to mention a few old remedies and poisons, is described briefly. A large number of compounds of little practical interest, but considerable academic importance, are at least mentioned.

The book is especially valuable because dose is related to effect, not only in man, but also in a large variety of experimental animals. For this reason it is useful to both the clinical investigator and the experimental pharmacologist. The book is useful to the teacher in establishing doses for student experiments.